

BEHIND THE TIMES

Published Quarterly

THE MUSEUM IS GETTING A FACELIFT!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Our Donors</i>	2
<i>The Thermometer</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	2
<i>Memories</i>	3
<i>Photo Page</i>	4
<i>Then and Now</i>	5
<i>Word Search Puzzle</i>	6

Contributed by **ROD FIFIELD**—
GAHS President

If anyone has been passing by the Gillett Area Historical Museum lately they will be seeing a yard that is looking a lot better thanks to the Erickson family of Burlington. Scott Erickson of Rustic Road Landscaping in Burlington has done a lot of planting, and also made improvements to the Museum grounds. The Museum sign area in the front yard looks absolutely beautiful because of their effort. The back yard fountain has been refurbished by C & L Sandblasting & Painting of Gillett and will be reinstalled this spring. The Ericksons have stated that they will help us with bringing back the flower garden/fountain area in the back. It will no longer be a weed bed.



Does this look like a place that needs help?

The Garage came off in 2010

If you look at the Museum itself you will see a structure that is in need of a lot of TLC. Well, the Tender Loving Care is coming. The Gillett Area Historical Society board at their last meeting approved a loan to replace siding and repaint the structure. By mid-summer you should see a beauti-

fully refurbished structure. We have a contract with Tri-Star Builders to do the work. We want to thank those who have supported the project so far, and ask anyone who wishes to help us complete the project to contact us.

We love company!

More Questions!

- Q:** When does the Museum reopen for the season?
A: Sunday May 1st
Q: What days is the Museum Open?
A: Saturday & Sunday
Q: What are the hours at the Museum?
A: 1PM—4PM. Other hours by appointment.

Visit us at the
 Museum
 to find more
 questions and
 answers!

(Winter hours open by
 appointment)
 920 598 1910

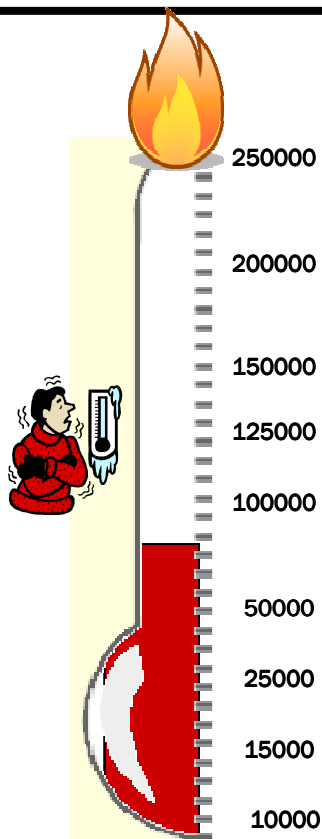
GAHS ANNOUNCEMENT ~ FUNDRAISING BEGINS!

Contributed by **MARTI MATYSKA** — Fundraising Committee

The Gillett Area Historical Society is having a major Fund Raising Project to support efforts in maintaining the GAHS Museum. Look for letters in May for more information on how you can help support this endeavor. At the GAHS January monthly meeting a Fundraising Committee was formed consisting of Carol Brown, Carol Reimer and Marti Matyska. The committee has been working diligently on preparing a letter to let folks know of the urgent need for funds.

(Con't on page 2)

Our thermometer in the past has reflected the amount of money donated over the past years. We have decided it will now reflect our total assets.



DON'T FORGET!

Donations are now accepted by credit card at www.gilletthistorical.com Just click on the **Donate** Button on any page of the web site in the upper left corner and follow the instructions for credit card donations. Your donation automatically goes into the GAHS bank account. Thank You!

~ OUR DONORS ~
2011~JANUARY—MARCH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SUSTAINING BENEFACTORS

- 2
Corporate/Business
- 0
Platinum ~ \$1000 +
- 0
Gold~ \$501-\$1000
- 0
Silver~ \$301-\$500
- 1
Bronze~ \$151-\$300
- 0
Patron~ \$50-\$150
- 5 (1 Annual Pledge)
Embers~ \$1-\$49
- 3

IN— KIND DONATIONS

0

In—Kind Donations
Are Important!



Are there any Folks out there who have not yet submitted their annual pledge and would be able to do so now in our "Time of Need"?

GIK WISH LIST

- 1] Vintage type security "Screen" door/hardware for front door.
 - 2] * "New" Back Exterior door (West side) with lock
- * Have Received a Pending Offer

CALENDAR

March

24 GAHS Monthly meeting
 Gillett Public Library
 Ansonge Annex
 7PM

April

28 GAHS Monthly meeting
 Gillett Public Library
 Ansonge Annex
 7PM

May

01 Museum Opens!
 26 GAHS Monthly Meeting
 Gillett Public Library
 Ansonge Annex
 7PM

FUNDRAISING (CON'T FROM PAGE 1)

Local Businesses can look forward to meeting with Officers & Board Members of the society to find how they can help in maintaining the history of Gillett and surrounding area, along with the history of local businesses. We look forward to meeting with our local Industry and Business leaders to help them become more familiar with our Museum and the Gillett Area Historical Society.

There have been exciting changes at the Museum. The historical society is refurbishing the exterior of the building. Sixty percent of the boards needed replacement, so the house will be re-sided in white pine, keeping it's original flavor by using the early 1900 materials. It will be painted in historically correct colors. We hope you will stop by and view the progress and perhaps offer a bit of your "loose change"?

Fundraising is a difficult task for everyone.

We count so much on our local area business people and citizens.

It is greatly appreciated by the Gillett Area Historical Society when folks take the time to read of the needs of a local non- profit organization and come to the rescue.

We hope you visit us soon!

DID YOU KNOW?

Since our December 2010 Newsletter, the Wausau Paranormal Society has published their official findings of their October overnight stay at the Gillett Area Historical Museum. Go to www.wprs.net and click along the left side of the web site on **CASES**. Page down under 2010 and you will find the 2nd case of Gillett Area Historical

Museum with the date of (10 -10)*. Click on that and you can read the results of their visit. It contains a very interesting step by step procedure of what transpired while they were there. Suffice to say the end result (for those who don't use computers) was: " Even though the second investigation did

not produce reliable paranormal evidence, WPRS investigators concur in the belief that the Gillett Area Historical Society (Museum) has potential for paranormal activity."

A further conclusion reached by WPRS members during their visit (GAHS Annual Dinner) was that the ladies of St John's Lutheran Church served the best cole slaw!

Thank a Volunteer!

Randy MacSwain has offered to oversee the museum siding project from his perspective as residential designer & former home builder.

The house that became a museum was built by Randy's great-grandfather.

THE OLD & THE "NEWER"



CA: 1930s Wool Swimsuit
 Donated by:
 Mavis Steffen

Where are they found at the museum?

1946 Catalina Swimsuit
 Worn by:
 Margo Meyer Upstone



Girls when they went out to swim
 Once drest like Mother Hubbard;
 Now they have a different whim:
 They dress more like her cupboard.

A STORY OF A GILLETT AREA FAMILY

The following story was written by Alden Gillette, son of Albert Gillett, grandson of the "original" Rodney S. Gillett. Alden returned to Gillett after retiring in 1971. He built his home at 122 Cedar Street where he resided with his wife Melba until 1992. He then moved to Southern Wisconsin to spend his final years. During his retirement years he would occasionally write about his childhood. Alden passed away March 8 1998 and is buried at Wanders Rest Cemetery in Gillett.

"Moving to the Farm"
 By Alden "Gid" Gillette

Evidently things were not going good for my Dad financially and he decided he could do better on a farm. I

was in the fourth grade when we moved to a farm about two ½ miles east of Stiles Junction. Rodney, my brother, was a year younger than me and Ward, my other brother was three years younger. We attended a school a little over two miles from home, so we didn't need a gym to work out in. The school had two rooms. First, second, third and fourth in one room and fifth, sixth, seven and eighth in the other. We had double desks, side by side with a little ink well we shared. The teachers would have to get to school early enough in the winter time to get their respective stoves lit and warmed up before us kids

got to school. School started at 9 o'clock and lasted until four. In the winter on a snowy or dark cloudy day, it was pretty dark when we got home. If the weather was real bad, there was usually some farmer that had kids in school would hitch up the team and come to pick their kids up so we got rides a lot of the time. Then any farmer that happened to be on the road would always let us hook a ride as we called it. There were two outside toilets and you would have to raise your hand to get permission to go. I can't remember if you held up one or two fingers on purpose or just let the

teacher know it was urgent. I remember when I was in seventh or eighth grade the teacher arranged a debate that was supposed to be pretty important because our parents were asked to come. The debate was (What is the most important, fire or water) I was the main speaker for all the things water was used for and I remember a kid by the name of Evertt (sic) Delaware was my opponent. I had the misfortune of nearly drowning the previous summer and my opponent kept harping on that and I think he won the debate.

Jokes you might find in this issue were from Dr Miles *New Joke Book*, a tattered copy found at the museum. Published about 1930.

Example:

Surgeon: "you say your son was cured of his wildness by an operation? What kind of operation?"

Banker: "I cut off his allowance and made him go to work".

Francis Cook Bradbury's Questions:

You mentioned some of the town characters I had-forgotten about. These I'd like you to recall for me, as to type, mannerisms, jobs, if any and maybe some expressions they used.

No doubt there are many incidents, people and insights you have been exposed to that I missed. You surprised me when you said the town was divided between the church side and the saloon side, that there were seven saloons and seven churches. I can only recall the names of five each, fill me in.

Do you remember the town having a small red building in back of the jail, towards the railroad tracks that was used for a "pest house?" Was it really that or was it to lock up town drunks? In the three or four blocks of the main street of Gillett can you list the businesses and recall some of the interiors? What were the signs on the old curtain in the town hall (later re-named the armory) I think your uncle had an ad on that stage curtain as did Petersons and Kuehls.

Can you recall the details of attending the movies? Izzy played her most wonderful piano music to accompany the moods of the scenes and of course the show couldn't begin without her, she was some times late and we kids used to have a rough house well organized before she got there.

A "NEW" 2011 EXHIBIT



A Sewing Machine Exhibit is planned for our 2011 opening in May. We have 4 sewing machines of different eras. You can read all about them at the exhibit and see how they work. We are in the process of finding a suitable display area for them so they can be together and reminisce among themselves! There is also a 5th built-in sewing machine --used by "Grandma Smith" in the early 1950s. See if you can find it!

From the Norman & Mae Gandt Estate

OLD NEWS ARTICLES ~ PART VIII OF IX

This Series has ended! The Roman Numerals Above were incorrect! Should have been "PART VIII OF VIII!"

Following begins a series of comments from a letter written by Emery Ansoorge (Former Gillett Mayor) in 1976 to Francis Cook Bradbury regarding Gillett Main Street Buildings

"— However to specifically answer some of your questions."

1. The "Pest House"-- indeed it was. I can remember many people with contagious diseases confined. Uncle Joe had the feed mill right in back of it and as a little kid I sure would stay clear of that "pest" house. The old village hall had two jail cells in the basement to house the rowdies and the other portion houses the fire truck. At the early stage however it consisted of large wheeled carts with lots of hose on it that the men would wheel to the fires on FOOT. How they did run. George Sohr was the fire chief for many years and L.B. Stuelke was the Clerk. Jos. Hilgenberg finally took over and was chief for about 25 years. I was on the dog-goned department for 25 years myself but of course then we graduated to mechanical equipment.

2. Yes there was an old curtain on the stage of the armory and almost everyone in Gillett had a hand painted ad on the curtain. All of the school plays were put on at the armory and even up to the time that I was a senior in High School. Local talent plays were put on and I can remember

one which Cal John was the bride -- what a bride. The Legion also put on boxing matches and I can remember one in which Otto Cronce took a terrible beating, In the prelim was a fellow by the name of Dr. I.L. Cook and Toby Zahn -- and believe me that was a fight. Irv. Gave away about 50 lbs. but he sure could fight.

3. Movies -- Sure! Most of them were serials so that we had to go back week after week. There was trouble in controlling the kids but it was part of the fun. Local merchants also had ads on the screen. Freda Gaulke had a little ice cream parlor in the lobby on the left-hand side as you entered.

4. As we proceed east from the armory there was a vacant lot and George Crawford for years had a coyote on a chain in this lot and no one could go through. It became a game for the kids to run through without getting nipped. Crawford had his Law Office above Stuelke's Bldg. Darrow had a furniture store for a period of time -- now the Laundromat. Glen Cook had an electrical store in the building for a time.

To Be Continued in the Next Issue ———

THEN AND NOW REMEMBER WHEN

THEN



127 E Main St
1960s—C & N Auto Supply
Formerly Helf Hardware

NOW



127 E. Main Street
Look for a new store coming soon!

“The display window will really draw you in and there's no disappointment in the tasting.”

“Vintage shabby chic, bric-a-brac everywhere and a nice little vibe. Even the staff were more friendly than I expected (I'd been warned they can be pretty rude).”

“I love this little discovery and know it will become a regular stop off.”

*~www.qype.co.uk/
place/44622-Maison-Bertaux-
London*

MANY UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOS AT MUSEUM!

The Museum has a huge number of photos that have no names! We invite everyone to take some time to stop over and look through old photos, and perhaps put a name to some. Whether it be a business, a building, an area, a person, a group of people — we'd love to know who, what or where they are! (Maybe even when!) Some were “transported” to the museum from Marie Darrow’s archives. Set aside a weekend sometime in May or later and bring a bunch of friends and neighbors to the Museum and have a “lets look at old photos” party!!



Hint: Allegedly a gas station in Gillett. Can you name these two “buddies”?
Get out your magnifying glass!

OUR “NEWEST” ACQUISITION



**Yes, it's a Photo! (1 of 4)
But can you guess where
it was taken?**

Hint: Yes it's in Gillett!

**E:mail
info@gilletthistorical.com
for answer!**

A 1919 State of Illinois study reported that lost wages due to sickness were four times larger than the medical expenditures associated with treating the illness (State of Illinois, pp. 15-17). As a result, most people felt they didn't need health insurance. Instead, households purchased "sickness" insurance -- similar to today's "disability" insurance -- to provide income replacement in the event of illness.

Gillett Area Historical Society

110 W. Main Street
PO Box 85
Gillett WI 54124-0085

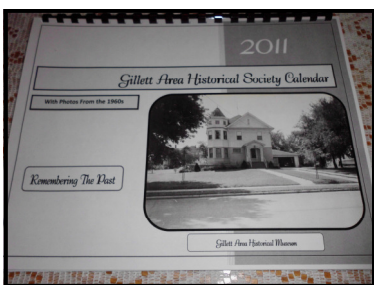
NEW

Gillett Area Historical Museum
Phone Number: 920 598 1910

E-mail: info@gilletthistorical.com



A limited number of
2011 Calendars are
STILL available.
The calendars feature
photos of businesses along
the south side of E. Main St
in the 1960s.
The cost is \$10.00 each.
Orders can be placed
through any GAHS officer
Or by e-mailing
info@gilletthistorical.com
Include your name, address
and phone number with your
request.



Insert Mailing Label Here

EARLY MAIN STREET BUSINESSES
Find the words in the grid. When you are finished, the unused words in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from top line to bottom.
Words can go horizontally, diagonally, vertically in all eight directions.

V E G U S B O C H E R H A R D W A R E I F S N
P I R T G I D L L E T M A I R N S T E R R E
O P E O T M Y A G L J P L M E L H G N D E M K
H B O T T P F K R M F R R T B E M S J V M C N
S E A H K S B J B R H H A K L N K G A D L M A
R R M K S V N V T T O E H F Z E G T K K B I B
E O P L E R P I Q N H W H J M K S P J D N L E
B T C K L R E M L T P A F E N R X M N Y C L T
R S K M T Y Y B M K R L A U E Y N C R T W E A
A G M A H T Q E R D N T J Y R K H R N T M R T
B U M L W L G P W A M A O D L N N T M B M D S
S R K T B H R A R A B N R Y T J I J H G T R N
N D P B M G R R R R R S N F F Q N T W Z V U E
E E N Y J E T K R U V X R G N N H N U W L G Z
W K T H W N E T O R T N R E C E F R K R K S I
O L P O X T M C Z H C R L W G Z B N G Q E T T
N E N T T E K R A M T A E M R E K L E O F O I
U U L E W T S T R O M E R G A R A G E T P R C
B T P L Q P V T S N H O K L Z Z X J F W Y E N
H S K M H T G D D C B J L W Z N F T F Q H X C
B G C R A W F O R D L A W O F F I C E V K F K
Z M V P O H S T A H S N I G D O H A N I V F R
D V F P O H S Y D N A C E C N O R C Y M G C C

www.WordSearchMaker.com

- BAKERY
- BEN FRANKLIN STORE
- BUN OWENS BARBER SHOP
- CITIZEN STATE BANK
- COURNOYERS TAVERN
- CRAWFORD LAW OFFICE
- CRONCE CANDY SHOP
- DARROW FURNITURE
- FENSKE MEAT MARKET
- FOELKER MEAT MARKET

- GEM THEATER
- GUS BOCHER HARDWARE
- HELP HARDWARE
- JAEGERS BARBER SHOP
- KOHNS TV
- MALTBY HOTEL
- MILLER DRUG STORE
- STROMER GARAGE
- STUELKE DRUG STORE
- VINA HODGINS HAT SHOP